

Support Person/Visitor Policy for Labor and Delivery and Obstetric Inpatient Units

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporary policies in place in order to keep everyone safe. This includes policies for support persons/visitors for all of our patients who receive pregnancy-related inpatient care at BIDMC. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Labor and Delivery

- All patients admitted to the Labor & Delivery unit may have **one or two healthy support person(s)**. Support persons may order hospital meals.
- Support persons in Labor & Delivery **must be 18 years old** or over. They must wear a BIDMC-issued surgical mask. Masks must be worn even if the person has received the COVID-19 vaccination.

Post-partum Units

- All patients may have a **person stay overnight** in their room on the postpartum unit. They must wear a hospital-provided surgical mask. The support person may order hospital meals.
- Post-partum patients who have had a negative test for COVID-19 may have two visitors at a time, following the regular hospital policies. Hours are noon – 7 pm.
- Post-partum patients who **have COVID-19** may only have one continuous support person throughout their stay.

Antepartum inpatient stay

- Pregnant patients who are admitted to the hospital, but are not on the Labor and Delivery unit, and who have had a negative test for COVID-19 shortly before or after admission, may have **two healthy visitors at a time** according to regular hospital visiting policies. Visitors must wear a mask, even if they are vaccinated. Hours are noon – 7 pm. We may have to ask visitors to leave if the number of people in the room does not allow for physical distancing.

Applies to all areas

All support persons and visitors in any area must:

- **Be screened** before entering. If the support person/visitor has signs of COVID-19, they will be asked to isolate at home right away. The patient may designate someone else in their place.
- **Wear a hospital-issued surgical mask** at all times, even if vaccinated against COVID-19.
- **Clean hands** frequently.
- **Be at least 18 years old**, unless they are visiting a parent or sibling.